

Re Item V.

1. The present report makes reference to the following document:

D1: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN Vol. 1996, No. 05, 31 May 1996
(1996-05-31) & JP 8 017552 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP),
19 January 1996 (1996-01-19)

2.1. Document D1 is regarded as closest prior art. It discloses, in particular in figure 1 (the references in parentheses relate to said document):

A device for monitoring the leakage current of a surge arrester (1) having a measuring element (2) for the purpose of checking the leakage current flowing in the arrester circuit and a filter arrangement (14) for the purpose of filtering out the third harmonic from the leakage current, the filter arrangement (14) being connected to an evaluation circuit (16) for the third harmonic.

The subject matter of independent claim 1 differs from this by the fact that

if appropriate, a warning signal is output to a display device connected to the evaluation unit, and in that a transformer is connected in the arrester circuit, via which transformer the power for a voltage supply to the filter arrangement and the evaluation circuit can be output.

2.2. The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore **novel** (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.3. The problem addressed by the present invention can be considered that of

providing a device for monitoring the leakage current of a surge arrester, in the case of which no auxiliary power is required for the supply of the monitoring circuit.

- 2.4. The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an **inventive step** for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):

Connecting a transformer into the arrester circuit in order to obtain the power required for the monitoring circuit from the leakage current
is not suggested by any of the documents cited in the search report.

- 2.5. Claims 2 - 11 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for **novelty** and **inventive step**.

Re Item VIII.

Not all of the features of claim 1 have been provided with references in parentheses (PCT Rule 6.2 b)).